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NEW BOOKS.

A Practical Algebra for Beginners. By THIRMUTHIS A. BROOKMAN. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Pp. xvii + 322.

This algebra contains many interesting departures from traditional methods. It centers the year's work around equations, using linear equations for the first half year and quadratic equations for the second. To apply these equations it introduces chapters on "Similar Right Triangles," "Proportion Underlying Levers," "Belted Pulleys and Gears in Mesh," "Formulas Concerning Bolts and Nuts," and "Direct Variation in Geometric Figures; Inverse Variation in Bicycle Pumps and Locomotives." The author recommends that thirty-six days be spent on these chapters.

In addition to the geometry used in the chapters already mentioned, there is considerable geometric application, especially of area and volume formulas. There is, however, no real attempt to combine the two subjects.

Synthetic division, radicals, and evolution have been relegated to the appendix, which also contains some further applications and excellent tables of square and cube roots. Synthetic division is here because it is not yet generally conceded its place in the subject, but radicals are rightly pronounced by the author to give "slight contribution in comparison with the notative of fractional exponents."

The book approaches the subject with much more of the inductive spirit than is usual in algebras, and it has much that should hold the interest of a student. Like all attempts to make the subject practical by introducing parts of other sciences to which it can be applied, its success or failure can only be demonstrated by trial in various types of schools.

New High School Algebra. By WEBSTER WELLS and WALTER W. HART. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co. Pp. vii + 424. Answers 61.

The first 275 pages are the same as the authors' "First Year Algebra," the remainder completes the usual course in second-year algebra. It carries out logically the plan undertaken in the earlier book, bringing the more difficult parts of such subjects as exponents, radicals and factoring, into the second year. The authors take a very sane position on problems and have written a very teachable book. The criticism it is most likely to meet is that certain parts of the work have had the complications largely removed.